Armed Forces DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

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COVER

The Medal of Honor, top right, is the highest decoration awarded to active duty service members. The four World War II service ribbons below, in order of precedence, left to right are: the American Campaign Medal; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; the Asiatic Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

Armed Forces DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

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INTRODUCTION

he Badge of Military Merit, established by Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782, was the first authorized U.S. military decoration. A piece of cloth in the form of a heart, this decoration was intended to recognize servicemen who displayed unusual gallantry or extraordinary fidelity. Only three are known to have been awarded, and the award fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War. Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived it as the Purple Heart in 1932.

The Medal of Honor was the next decoration to be specifically designed and authorized for U.S. service members. It was established on Dec. 21, 1861, by President Abraham Lincoln for enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps. Its use was later expanded to include enlisted men and officers of all services.

Since that time, many decorations have evolved. Changes in eligibility criteria have been made over the years, and, in some cases, decorations have fallen into disuse. However, the basic hierarchy remains unchanged. The Medal of Honor remains the highest military decoration that this nation can bestow upon a service member, and lesser degrees of recognition are acknowledged by other decorations in descending order.

This booklet provides illustrations and brief descriptions of the decorations and awards that may be earned by members of the armed forces. Also included are descriptions of top civilian awards issued by DoD and the services as well as charts on the order of precedence for wearing individual decorations and awards. For complete information and official instructions about how decorations and awards are issued and worn, consult your service's regulations.

MEDALS



The decorations and awards on these and subsequent pages are listed in DoD 1348.33-M (Manual of Military Decorations and Awards), published by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel).

They are listed in general order of precedence. However, precedence, and thus the appropriate order for wear on the uniform, is established by the service secretary; therefore, separate sections showing the order of precedence for individual services are shown elsewhere in this booklet.

These awards and decorations are those most *likely* to be found on the uniform of today's service member. For this reason, awards and decorations issued prior to 1950—generally before the Korean conflict—are not shown. For the same reason, foreign unit awards (such as the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation) are included, even though they are not listed in DoD Manual 1348.33–M.



A Brief History



Civil War-Navy



World War I-Navy

The Medal of Honor

The first formal system for rewarding acts of individual gallantry by the nation's fighting men was established by Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782. Designed to recognize "any singularly meritorious action," the award consisted of a purple cloth heart. Records show that only three persons received the award: Sgt. Elijah Churchill, Sgt. William Brown and Sgt. Daniel Bissel Jr.

The Badge of Military Merit, as it was called, fell into oblivion until 1932, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then Army chief of staff, pressed for its revival. Officially reinstituted on Feb. 22, 1932, the now-familiar Purple Heart was at first an Army award, given to those who had been wounded in World War I or who possessed a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate. In 1943, the order was amended to include personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Coverage was eventually extended to include all services and "any civilian national" wounded while serving with the armed forces.

Although the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War, the idea of a decoration for individual gallantry remained through the early 1800s. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, a "certificate of merit" was established for any soldier who distinguished himself in action. No medal went with the honor. After the Mexican-American War, the award was discontinued, which meant there was no military award with which to recognize the nation's fighting men.

Early in the Civil War, a medal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott. But Scott felt medals smacked of European affectation and killed

The medal found support in the Navy, however, where it was felt recognition of courage in strife was needed. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on Dec. 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording was introduced on behalf of the Army. Signed into law July 12, 1862, the measure provided for awarding a medal of honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS (Army)

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force. For service members serving in any capacity with the Army.



NAVY CROSS

(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For extraordinary heroism in connection
with military operations against an
opposing armed force.



AIR FORCE CROSS

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force.



DEFENSE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

For award by the secretary of defense for exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (Army)

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (Navy-Marine Corps)

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (Air Force)

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (Coast Guard)

For exceptionally meritorious service to the government in a duty of great responsibility.



SILVER STAR

For gallantry in action against an opposing armed force.



DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

Awarded by the secretary of defense for superior meritorious service while in a position of significant responsibility while assigned to a joint activity.



LEGION OF MERIT

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.



DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

For heroism or extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. Bronze "V" device is worn by Navy and Marine Corps personnel to denote valor.







SOLDIER'S MEDAL

For heroism by those serving with the Army in any capacity that involves the voluntary risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an opposing armed force.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

For acts of heroism not involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.

AIRMAN'S MEDAL

For heroism that involves the voluntary risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an opposing armed force.





For acts of heroism not involving actual conflict with an opposing armed force.



BRONZE STAR MEDAL

For heroic or meritorious achievement of service, not involving aerial flight in connection with operations against an opposing armed force. Bronze "V" device worn to denote valor.



PURPLE HEART

Awarded for wounds or death as result of an act of any opposing armed force, as a result of an international terrorist attack or as a result of military operations while serving as part of a peacekeeping force.



DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Awarded in the name of the secretary of defense for recognition of non-combat meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

For outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement or service to the United States.



AIR MEDAL

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.
Bronze "V" device worn to denote valor.



AERIAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (Air Force)

For sustained meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.



JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL

For meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity.



ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Awarded by the Army for heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.



NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL
Awarded by the Navy and Marine
Corps for heroic or meritorious
achievement or service.
Bronze "V" device worn
to denote valor.



AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL Awarded by the Air Force for outstanding achievement, meritorious service or acts of courage.



COAST GUARD
COMMENDATION MEDAL
Awarded by the Coast Guard for
meritorious service resulting in unusual
or outstanding achievement.



JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL For meritorious achievement or service while assigned to a joint activity after Aug. 3, 1983.



ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Awarded to members of the Armed
Forces who, while serving in any
capacity with the Army in a
non-combat area on or after Aug. 1,
1981, distinguish themselves by
meritorious service or achievement.



NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
(Navy-Marine Corps)
For junior officers and enlisted
personnel whose professional and/or
leadership achievements on or after
May 1, 1961, are clearly of a
superlative nature.



AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL Awarded by the Air Force for meritorious service or achievement after Sept. 30, 1981.



COAST GUARD
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
For military personnel whose
professional achievements and/or
leadership on or after April 1, 1967, are
of a clearly superlative nature.



POW MEDAL
Awarded to any person who was taken
prisoner of war and held captive after
April 5, 1917, during World Wars I and II,
Korea and Vietnam conflicts and
Operation Desert Storm.



COMBAT READINESS MEDAL
(Air Force)

Awarded for completion of an aggregate of two years of sustained individual combat or mission readiness or preparedness for direct weapon system deployment.



GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (Army)

Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity while on active duty.



GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (Navy) Based on conduct for four-year periods of continuous active service.



GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (Marine Corps) Based on conduct for three-year periods of continuous active service.



GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (Air Force) Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity during a three-year period of service.



GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (Coast Guard) Based on conduct for three-year periods (after Jan. 1, 1980) of continuous active service.



COAST GUARD RESERVE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Based on conduct for three-year periods of continuous Reserve service. Replaces the Coast Guard Reserve Meritorious Service Ribbon.



ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

For exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity while serving as a member of an Army National Guard or Reserve Troop Program Unit.



NAVAL RESERVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Awarded to Navy reservists who fulfill with distinction the obligations of inactive reservists during any four consecutive years.



AIR RESERVE FORCES MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

(Air Force)

Awarded for exemplary behavior,
efficiency, and fidelity during a
four-year period while serving in an
enlisted status in the Air Force
Reserve Forces.



SELECTED MARINE CORPS RESERVE MEDAL

Awarded for four consecutive years service in Selected Marine Corps Reserve.



NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

For opposed landing on foreign territory or operations deserving special recognition for which service no other campaign medal has been awarded.



MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

For opposed landing on foreign territory or operations deserving special recognition for which service no other campaign medal has been awarded.



ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL (Army-Air Force)

For 30 consecutive days service after World War II at a normal post of duty while assigned to an army of occupation.



NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For occupation service during and after
World War II.



CHINA SERVICE MEDAL
(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)
For service in China, July 7, 1937, to
Sept. 7, 1939, (Navy-Marine Corps) and
Sept. 2, 1945, to April 1, 1957
(Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard).



NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
For active federal service in the armed
forces, including the Coast Guard, between
June 27, 1950, and July 1954; from Jan. 1,
1961, to Aug. 14, 1974; and from Aug. 2,
1990, to a date to be determined. Also
awarded to members of the National
Guard and Reserve who were part of the
Selected Reserve in good standing during
the period from Aug. 2, 1990, to a date to be
determined.



KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL For participation in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950, and July 27, 1954.



ANTARCTICA SERVICE MEDAL For participating in an expedition, operation or support of a U.S. operation in Antarctica after Jan. 1, 1946, to date to be announced.



SERVICE MEDAL

For participating in an expedition,
operation or support of an operation in
excess of 21 consecutive days in
the Arctic.

COAST GUARD ARCTIC



ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL For participating in designated operations after July 1, 1958.



VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL For service in Southeast Asia and contiguous waters or air space thereover from July 4, 1965, through March 28, 1973.



SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL For service in Southwest Asia and contiguous waters or air space thereover from Aug. 2, 1990, until a date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.



HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL
For meritorious direct participation in a
significant military act or operation of
a humanitarian nature performed after
April 1, 1975.



ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL For 10 years of honorable service in Reserve components of the armed forces.



NAVAL RESERVE MEDAL Awarded for 10 years of honorable service in the Naval Reserve (prior to Sept. 12, 1958).



(Korea)
For service in the Korean area in support of UN action from June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1954; and those who are also eligible for the Korean Service Medal.



INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL

Awarded for at least one year of service on the IADB in selected positions.



UNITED NATIONS MEDAL

For not less than six months' service with UN Observers Group in Lebanon, UN Truce Supervisory Organization in Palestine, UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan, or UN Security Forces, Hollandia.



MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL

Awarded for service with the Multinational Force and Observers Organization for at least 90 consecutive days.



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

For six months direct combat support or service in South Vietnam between March 1, 1961, and March 28, 1973. Also for those wounded, captured or killed in action or in the line of duty during the same period.



KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL

(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) Awarded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for direct participation in Operation Desert Storm between Jan. 17, 1991, and Feb. 28, 1991.



COAST GUARD COMMANDANT'S LETTER OF COMMENDATION RIBBON BAR

For military personnel whose personal achievements merit recognition to a lesser extent than an Achievement Medal.



COMBAT ACTION RIBBON (Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)

For active participation in ground or surface combat subsequent to March 1, 1961, while in the grade of captain/colonel or junior thereto.



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Army-Air Force)

For service in a unit cited in the name of the president for extraordinary heroism in action occurring on or after Dec. 7, 1941.



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (Navy-Marine Corps-Coast Guard)

For service in a unit cited in the name of the president for outstanding performance in action.



JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

Recognizes joint units or activities for meritorious achievement or service superior to that which would normally be expected during combat or declared national emergency or under extraordinary circumstances that involve the national interest.



VALOROUS UNIT AWARD (Army)

Awarded to units for extraordinary heroism in action on or after Aug. 3, 1963.



NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION (Navy-Marine Corps)

For outstanding heroism in action or extremely meritorious service not involving combat, but in support of military operations.



COAST GUARD UNIT

Awarded to a unit for meritorious service rendering it outstanding compared to others providing similar services.



AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT

In recognition of exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement of a numbered unit whether in peacetime or wartime.



AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

In recognition of exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement of an organization or activity whether in peacetime or wartime.



MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (Army)

Awarded to a unit for at least six months of outstanding service during a period of combat on or after Jan. 1, 1944.



ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD

For outstanding meritorious performance by a unit of a difficult and challenging mission.



MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION (Navy-Marine Corps)

For valorous or meritorious achievement or service that renders the unit outstanding as compared to other units performing the same service.



COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION

Awarded to a unit for meritorious service rendering it outstanding compared to others providing similar services. Gold stars denote subsequent awards.



NAVY "E" RIBBON (Navy)

To denote permanent duty on/with ships or squadrons that won the battle efficiency competitions subsequent to July 1, 1974.



COAST GUARD "E" RIBBON

Awarded to personnel serving aboard their unit for more than 50 percent of the period during which it undergoes Refresher Training and earns the overall operational readiness "E" award.



COAST GUARD BICENTENNIAL UNIT COMMENDATION

Awarded to all Coast Guard members serving satisfactoriuly during any period from June 4, 1989, to Aug. 4, 1990.





OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR RIBBON

Awarded to airmen selected to represent their major air commands/separate operating agencies/direct reporting units in the annual 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program.



AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD

For four years active service. Oak leaf clusters denote subsequent awards.



SEA SERVICE DEPLOYMENT RIBBON

(Navy-Marine Corps)

To recognize the unique and demanding nature of sea service and the arduous duty attendant with deployment subsequent to Aug. 15, 1974.



NAVY ARCTIC SERVICE RIBBON

For participation in operations in support of the Arctic Warfare Program on or after Jan. 1, 1982.



NAVAL RESERVE SEA SERVICE RIBBON

For any combination of active or Selected Reserve service after Aug. 14, 1974, aboard a Naval Reserve ship or its Reserve unit or an embarked active or Reserve staff for a cumulative total of 36 months.



MARINE CORPS RESERVE RIBBON

Awarded for 10 years of service in the Marine Corps Reserve (prior to Dec. 18, 1965).



AIR FORCE RECOGNITION RIBBON

Awarded to named individual Air Force recipients of special trophies and awards listed in AFR 900–29.



NCO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIBBON (Army)

Awarded to members of the United States Army for successful completion of designated non-commissioned officer professional development courses.



ARMY SERVICE RIBBON

Awarded as of Aug. 1, 1981, to members of the U.S. Army for successful completion of initial-entry training.



OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON (Army)

Awarded to members of the U.S. Army for successful completion of overseas tours.



NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

For 12 months consecutive or accumulated active duty at an overseas duty station; or for 30 consecutive days or 45 cumulative days of active duty for training or temporary active duty after Aug. 14, 1974.



NAVY RECRUITING SERVICE RIBBON

Awarded for completion of a successful tour of Navy recruiting duty after January 1, 1980.



AIR FORCE OVERSEAS RIBBON (Short Tour)

Awarded for completion of an overseas short tour.



AIR FORCE OVERSEAS RIBBON (Long Tour)

Awarded for completion of an overseas long tour.



ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS OVERSEAS TRAINING RIBBON

Awarded to members of the U.S. Army Reserve components for successful completion of annual training or active duty for training for a period not less than 10 consecutive duty days on foreign soil.



NCO PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION GRADUATE RIBBON

For graduation from a certified accredited Air Force non-commissioned officer professional military education school, Phases II, III and IV.



USAF BASIC MILITARY TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE RIBBON

Awarded to honor graduates of BMT who have demonstrated excellence in all phases of academic and military training.



AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON

Awarded for completion of Air Force initial military-accession training on or after Aug. 14, 1974.



SMALL ARMS EXPERT MARKSMANSHIP RIBBON (Air Force)

Awarded to Air Force personnel who qualify as expert in small arms marksmanship.



COAST GUARD SPECIAL OPERATIONS SERVICE RIBBON

For participation in a Coast Guard special operation approved by the area commander or commandant.



COAST GUARD SEA SERVICE RIBBON

For completion of two years or more of cumulative sea duty on a U.S. Coast Guard cutter 65 feet or more in length in an active status, in commission or in service.



COAST GUARD RESTRICTED DUTY RIBBON

For completion of a permanentchange-of-station tour of duty where accompanying dependents are not authorized.



COAST GUARD BASIC TRAINING HONOR GRADUATE RIBBON

For members in the top 3 percent of each Coast Guard recruit training graduating class.



PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

For service in defense and liberation of the Philippines during World War II. Also subsequently awarded to Army, Navy-Marine Corps units for selected disaster relief operations.



REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

For service in Korea from June 27, 1950, to July 27, 1953.



VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

For humanitarian assistance given during. August–September 1954 in evacuation of civilians from North and Central Vietnam.



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH PALM UNIT CITATION

Awarded by the Republic of Vietnam to units for valorous combat achievement.



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

Awarded by the Republic of Vietnam to units in recognition of meritorious civil action service.

Devices are affixed to service or suspension ribbons to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. Numerous devices have been authorized for the various decorations and service awards awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States. In most instances, the services determine the manner in which these devices shall be worn; however, in the case of defense awards, the devices to be worn are determined by the assistant secretary of defense (force management and personnel). These are the devices authorized for wear on the service and suspension ribbons of defense awards.



BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER

The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of awards.



SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf clusters.



BRONZE SERVICE STAR

The bronze five-pointed service star represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized.



SILVER SERVICE STAR

Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.



GOLD STAR

Denotes each subsequent award of the same Navy decoration.



SILVER STAR

Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.



HOURGLASS DEVICE

Used for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.



KWISTERFOLOVER

WINTERED OVER

For wintering over on the Antarctic continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter.



"V" (VALOR) DEVICE

This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

NOTE: A maximum of four devices may be worn on any ribbon. Devices to be worn on ribbons must be worn in a specific manner. For example, oak leaf clusters are worn with the stem pointing to the right of the wearer. Appropriate service regulations describe their proper placement and wear.

U.S. ARM) ER OF PRECEDENC

JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL NATIONAL DEFENSE UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL PURPLE HEART SERVICE MEDAL SILVER STAR KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL COMPONENTS OVERSEAS TRAINING BRONZE STAR MEDAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL ARMY RESERVE SOUTHWEST ASIA SERVICE MEDAL RIBBON REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL **OVERSEAS SERVICE** VIETNAM SERVICE SOLDIER'S MEDAL DISTINGUISHED ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS SERVICE MEDAL RIBBON DEFENSE MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL ARMY SERVICE RIBBON DISTINGUISHED FLYING EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL GOOD CONDUCT
MEDAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS ARMED FORCES AIR MEDAL MERITORIOUS SERVICE ANTARCTICA SERVICE NCO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RIBBON MEDAL OF HONOR UNITED NATIONS MEDAL **LEGION OF MERIT** POW MEDAL LEFT SIDE

ARMED FORCES RESERVE

INTER-AMERICAN
DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS

SERVICE MEDAL

DEFENSE SUPERIOR SERVICE MEDAL

RIGHT SIDE



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION



REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT



JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD



VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION



VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS
UNIT CITATION



MERITORIOUS UNIT



ARMY SUPERIOR UNIT AWARD



PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT







COMMENDATION



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT CITATION

SILVER SERVICE STAR

Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.



Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Army GERMANY AND IAPAN CLASPS of Occupation Medal,



BRONZE SERVICE STAR

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth,

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf

clusters.



HOURGLASS

This metallic bronze letter "V" represents

"V" (VALOR) DEVICE

valor and does not denote an additional

award. Only one may be worn on any

Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service

For wintering over on the Antarctic

WINTERED OVER

for second winter, silver for third winter.



Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.



ARROWHEAD

Awarded for participation in an initial assault suspension ribbons of the appropriate landing. Worn on the service and

> Medal, Multinational Force and Observers Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and Army

Number of loops and color denote number of awards of Good Conduct Medal. Bronze, second-fifth awards; silver, sixth-10th; gold,

11th-15th.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

CLASP

BRONZE ARABIC NUMERAL Denotes subsequent awards of the Air Reserve Components Overseas Training

Ribbon and level of non-commissioned

officer professional military education.



campaign or service medal. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.



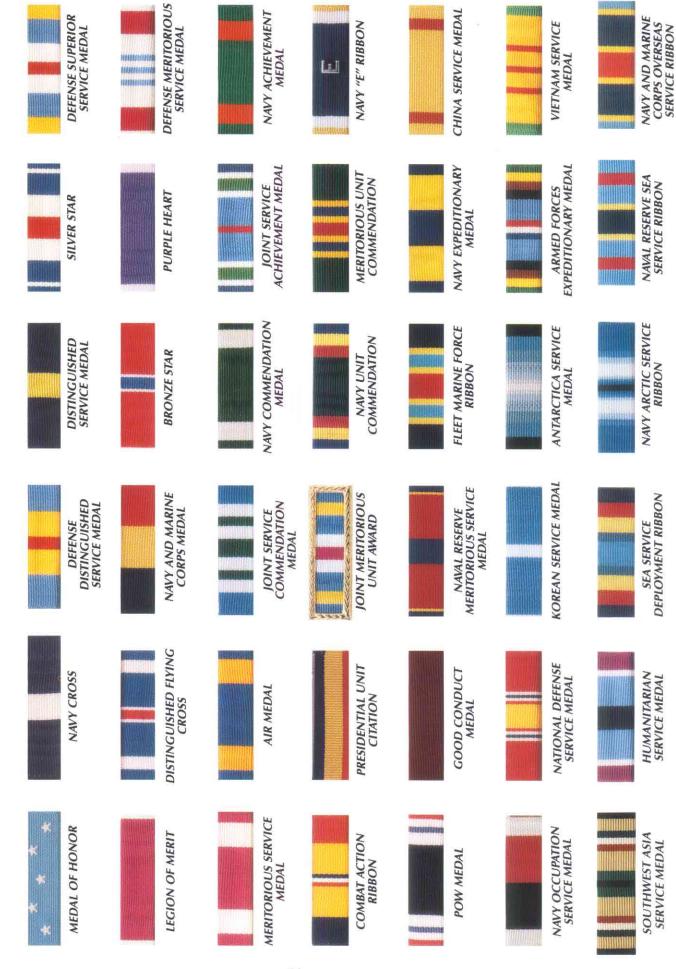
The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Army uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to AR 670-1.

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BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER second and subsequent entitlements of The bronze oak leaf cluster represents

awards.

- U.S. NAV JRDER OF PRECEDENCE





NAVY RECRUITING SERVICE RIBBON

ARMED FORCES RESERVE

MEDAL



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

DEVICES

KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)











UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

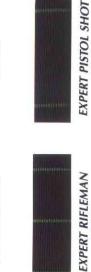
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT











MEDAL

MEDAL



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION







MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL









SILVER SERVICE STAR

Wom in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five bronze service stars.

participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the The bronze five-pointed service star represents

BRONZE SERVICE STAR

-

various ribbons on which it is authorized. Also worn to denote first award of the single mission

air medal after Nov. 22, 1989.



"V" DEVICE

The metallic bronze letter "V" is authorized for acts or service involving direct participation in combat operations,



FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT **OPERATIONS INSIGNIA**

For Navy personnel attached to fleet Marine force units participating in combat operations.

Denotes each subsequent award of the same GOLD STAR

Navy decoration,

SILVER STAR

Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.





WINTERED OVER

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth,

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER The bronze oak leaf cluster represents second and subsequent entitlements of

awards.

11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf

clusters.

service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service for second winter, silver for third winter, For wintering over on the Antarctic



Bronze arabic numeral denotes the total



STRIKE/FLIGHT DEVICE

Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Navy

Issued for each succeeding award of the

HOURGLASS

Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Occupation Service Medal.

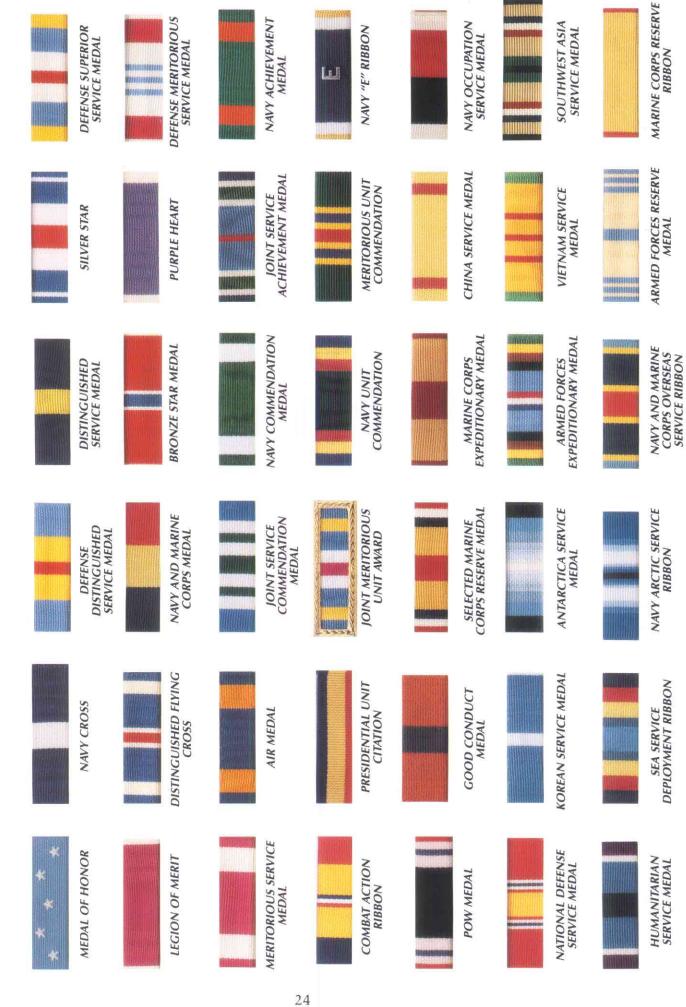
EUROPE AND ASIA CLASPS

Medal earned subsequent to April 9, 1962. number of strike/flight awards of the Air

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Navy uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to SECNAVINST 1650.1F and U.S. Navy Uniform Regulation (NAVPERS 1566.5G).

ORDER OF PRECEDENCE - U.S. MARINE CORPS

dinamina





PRESIDENTIAL UNIT PHILIPPINE



DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL INTER-AMERICAN

UNITED NATIONS
MEDAL



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION



MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS MEDAL



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS UNIT CITATION





KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)



UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

CIVIL ACTIONS UNIT



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

CAMPAIGN MEDAL

DEVICES



Denotes each subsequent award of the same GOLD STAR Navy decoration.



SILVER STAR

Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars.



BRONZE SERVICE STAR

participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various ribbons on which it is authorized. Also The bronze five-pointed service star represents worn to denote first award of the single mission air medal after Nov. 22, 1989.



WINTERED OVER

Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold for second winter, silver for third winter. continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service For wintering over on the Antarctic

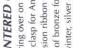
A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth, 11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf

clusters.

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER second and subsequent entitlements of The bronze oak leaf cluster represents

awards.





GOLD ARABIC NUMERAL

Denotes the total number of individual-mission Air Medals. Awarded prior to Nov. 22, 1989.





"V" (VALOR) DEVICE

This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any



STRIKE/FLIGHT DEVICE

Medal earned subsequent to April 9, 1962. Bronze arabic numeral denotes the total number of strike/flight awards of the Air



FLEET MARINE FORCE COMBAT

force units participating in combat operations. For Navy personnel attached to fleet Marine





OPERATIONS INSIGNIA



HOURGLASS

issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Navy

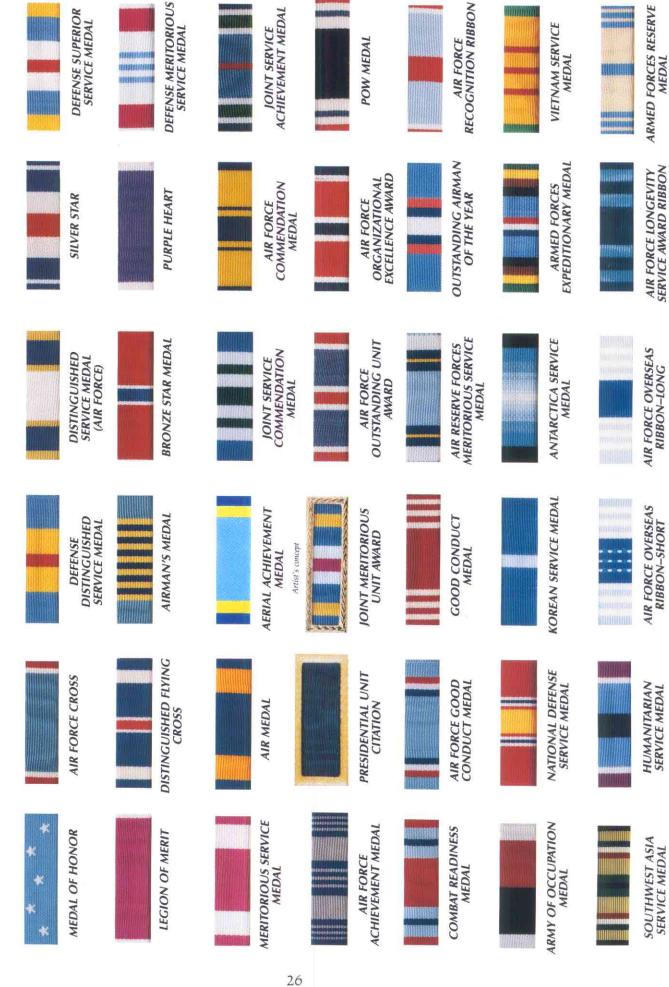
Occupation Service Medal,

EUROPE AND ASIA CLASPS



The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Marine Corps uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to SECNAVINST 1650.1F, MCO 1650.19 and MCO P 1020.34.

U.S. AIR FORCE RDER OF PRECEDENCE





PROFESSIONAL
MILITARY EDUCATION GRADUATE RIBBON



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS
UNIT CITATION

DEVICES

SERVICE MEDAL



UNITED NATIONS





UNITED NATIONS MEDAL



AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL



REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

CITATION







KUWAIT LIBERATION MEDAL (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)



Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, but each silver star is worn in lieu of five



SILVER SERVICE STAR



bronze service stars,

represents participation in campaigns or

The bronze five-pointed service star

A silver oak leaf cluster is worn for the sixth,

SILVER OAK LEAF CLUSTER

BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER second and subsequent entitlements of The bronze oak leaf cluster represents

awards.

11th, or in lieu of five bronze oak leaf

clusters.

BRONZE SERVICE STAR

*

operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various

ribbons on which it is authorized.



GERMANY AND JAPAN CLASPS

Worn on the suspension ribbon of the Army of Occupation Medal.



HOURGLASS



Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.





"V" (VALOR) DEVICE

This metallic bronze letter "V" represents valor and does not denote an additional award. Only one may be worn on any ribbon.

> Medal, suspension ribbon and a disc for the service ribbon of bronze for first winter, gold

for second winter, silver for third winter.

continent, a clasp for Antarctica Service

For wintering over on the Antarctic

WINTERED OVER

WAS GENERAL OF BRIDE



Number of loops and color denote number of awards of Good Conduct Medal. Bronze, second-fifth awards; silver, sixth-10th; gold,



11th-15th



Awarded for participation in an initial assault

ARROWHEAD

landing. Worn on the service and

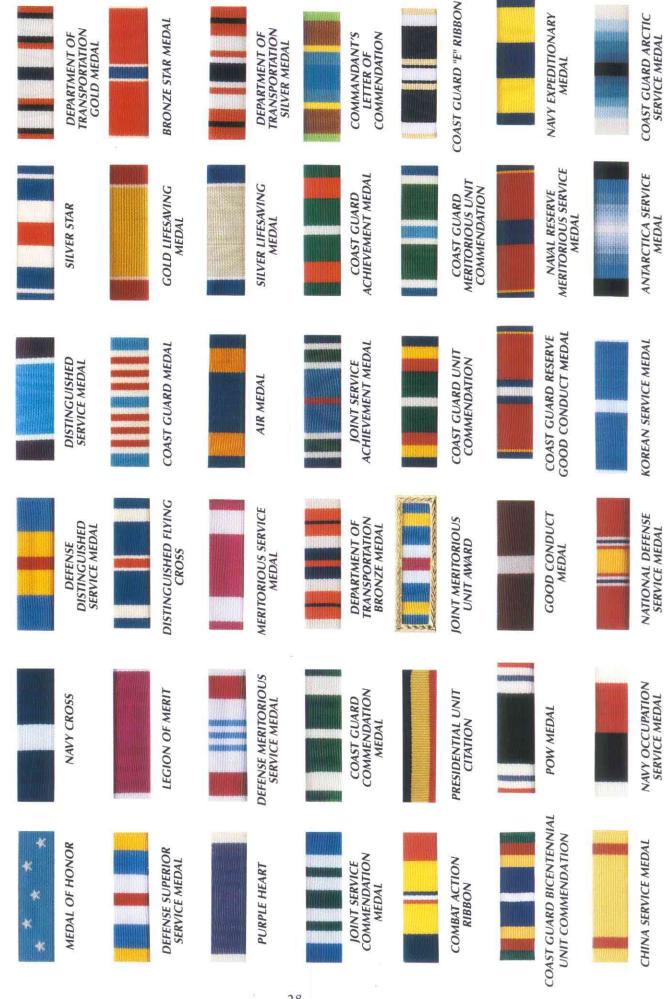
campaign or service medal. Only one may

be worn on any ribbon.

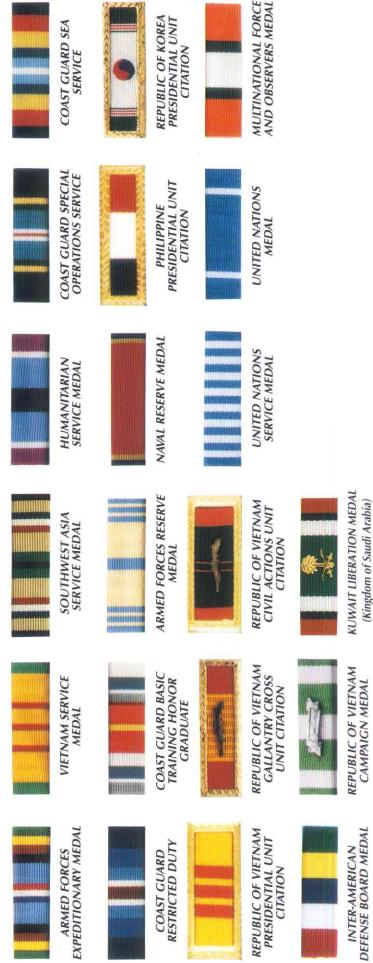
suspension ribbons of the appropriate

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Air Force uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to AFR 35-10 and AFR 900-48.

— U.S. COAST GUARD ORDER OF PRECEDENCE







DEVICES



Denotes each subsequent award of the same Coast Guard decoration. GOLD STAR



Worn in the same manner as the gold star, in lieu of five gold stars. SILVER STAR



represents participation in campaigns or operations, multiple qualification or an additional award to any of the various The bronze five-pointed service star ribbons on which it is authorized. **BRONZE SERVICE STAR**



Worn in the same manner as the bronze star, SILVER SERVICE STAR

but each silver star is worn in lieu of five

bronze service stars.

HOURGLASS

Issued for each succeeding award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

COAST GUARD OPERATIONAL DISTINGUISHING DEVICE

Denotes performance under operational

conditions.

The above display represents the correct order of precedence for ribbons most likely to be worn today on the Coast Guard uniform. Devices worn on these ribbons must be worn in a specific manner and are used to denote additional awards or participation in a specific event. For additional information about the proper order of display, placement of devices or about ribbons not shown, refer to the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual, CMDTINST M1650.25.

CIVILIAN AWARDS

These are the top awards that may be earned by DoD and Coast Guard civilian personnel. They are arranged in order of precedence.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



DoD DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Awarded competitively for exceptional devotion to duty and extremely significant contribution of broad scope to efficiency or other improvements in the operation of the Department of Defense.



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to those who have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of major significance to the Department of Defense.

ARMY



EXCEPTIONAL CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For clearly exceptional performance of duties, exceptional achievements of major significance, exhibiting great courage or providing outstanding leadership.



MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For performance of duties in an exemplary manner, demonstrating unusual initiative and skill, achieving outstanding results in improving the morale and performance of workers, exhibiting unusual courage in an emergency or rendering service of unique or distinctive character.

NAVY/MARINE CORPS



SUPERIOR CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For superior service or achievement or heroism of a lesser degree than that recognized by the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.



DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For those distinguishing themselves through contributions of major significance and/or extraordinary service to the Navy.



SUPERIOR CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For superior service or contributions resulting in exceptional values and/or benefits to the Navy.



MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For meritorious service or contributions resulting in high value and/or benefits to the Navy.

AIR FORCE



EXCEPTIONAL CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For exceptionally meritorious service of major significance to the Air Force in the performance of duties in a manner clearly exceptional to others.



OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN CAREER SERVICE AWARD

For outstanding career service of major significance to the Air Force meriting recognition at the time of retirement.

COAST GUARD*



MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

For outstanding service to the Air Force in the performance of duties in an exemplary manner.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For exceptionally outstanding leadership or service that is distinguished by achievements of marked national or international significance and which reflect great credit on the Department of Transportation and the federal government.



MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For exceptionally meritorious service to the Department of Transportation or the federal government or for exceptional achievement that substantially contributed to an accomplishment of the Department of Transportation mission or major program.



VALOR AWARD

For acts of heroism or courage involving great risk under unusual circumstances.

*These are Department of Transportation awards. When the Coast Guard operates as part of the Navy in wartime, civilians are eligible for that service's civilian awards.

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